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EDUCATION AT A CROSSROADS

Today, the House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations released the final report on its three-year *Education at a Crossroads* project. The report details the most comprehensive Congressional review ever undertaken of the effectiveness of federal education programs.

As part of the *Crossroads* project, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, chaired by Rep. Pete Hoekstra (R-MI), held 22 hearings across the country to learn what works and what's wasted in federal education programs.

What the Subcommittee found should concern every American. Federal education programs are often duplicative and uncoordinated. Many of these programs are run out of Washington and arrive in local school districts with a dizzying array of regulations and red tape. And, many of them simply don't work. Here is just a sampling of the startling facts the *Crossroads* project discovered:

- ◆ **Thirty-nine federal agencies run more than 760 education programs at a cost of \$100 billion a year to American taxpayers.** Few of these programs have demonstrated real results. Test scores are still down, dropout rates are up, and colleges and universities are spending more money on remedial education.
- ◆ **As little as 65-70 cents of the taxpayers' federal education dollar is sent to the classroom to fund instruction.** The remaining money is tied up in red tape and bureaucracy in federal agencies.
- ◆ According to the U.S. Department of Education's own *Paperwork Reduction Act Accomplishments and Plans for the Future* report, **the Department requires 48.6 million hours of paperwork – or the equivalent of 25,000 employees working full-time each year.**

- ♦ **Governor George Voinovich of Ohio reports that some school administrators in his state spend 50 percent of their time filling out federal forms** – despite the fact that federal funds account for only 6 percent of Ohio's educational spending.
- ♦ To assist in the cultural advancement of hearing-impaired Americans, **the Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services allows federal dollars to be spent on closed captioning of the *Jerry Springer* show.**

The *Education at a Crossroads* project's findings have led the Republican Congress to craft a new education agenda that encourages more flexibility, education savings accounts, parental choice in education, scholarships for low-income students, innovative charter schools, an emphasis on basic academics and parental involvement, and more dollars *directly* to the classroom.

Attached is a copy of the Executive Summary of the *Crossroads* report. A complete copy of the report will be delivered to Members' offices prior to the August recess. For more information about the report or the *Crossroads* project, please call Jay Diskey or Bill McCarthy at the House Committee on Education and the Workforce (202-225-4527).

Attachment

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